

04-158

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to bring to their attention new procedures for obtaining a waiver of a fee for the Arlington County parking decal. This decal is required for the operation of a motor vehicle by residents of Arlington County, Virginia, whether or not they are members of the foreign diplomatic community.

The waiver was implemented in response to requests for assistance from the foreign diplomatic community. Arlington County authorities require all residents owning vehicles to display in their vehicles a valid Arlington County parking decal to avoid paying penalties. Ordinarily, the cost for registration and obtaining this decal is \$24.00.

However, the Department of State and the Arlington County Commissioner of Revenue have reached an agreement whereby members of the foreign diplomatic community may bypass the local registration requirement and obtain

decals at no cost. The arrangement requires that members of missions present a copy of their Department vehicle registration along with their Department-issued identification to obtain a parking decal. Eligible individuals should present these documents in person at the Arlington County Office of the Commissioner of Revenue, located at 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 218, Arlington, Virginia 22201. The hours of operation are 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

In the event of any complications or questions about the foregoing, the Mission should contact the Diplomatic Tax and Customs Program, Office of Foreign Missions at (202) 895-3500.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "hmp".

Department of State,

Washington, JUL 6 2004